The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. 24. CHICAGO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1870. NO. 148.

FOREIGN.

The Fortress of Reifort Unsuccessfully Stormed by the Germans.

The Germans in the Eastern Department Said to be Retreating.

Attempt to Assassinate General Prim in Madrid.

Roumanian Independence Declared.

Mr. Seward Cordially Received by the Authorities of Japan.

FRANCE.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF MONTAVON.

VERSAILLES, Dec. 28.—Mont Avron was stormed to-day, but the fire from the bomb-proof reply to the fire of the German guns.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The World dispatch from Versailles the 26th, states that thus far the bombardment of Fort Aaron has been effective. The French fire has caused considerable loss to the Germans.

STRASBURG-SUR-MARNE, Dec. 28.—The *Prussian* Correspondence says that the bombardment of Mont Avron has continued to the interruption of the general shelling of Paris, inasmuch as the capture will greatly facilitate operations against the French capital.

AT THE EAST.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Germans in the Eastern Department are retreating. They have already evacuated the towns of Gray, in the valley of the Saone.

BLOCKADE PROCLAIMED.

A proclamation has been issued by the Prussian Government placing under blockade all ports of Prussia and occupied or hereafter captured by the German forces.

RYE.

The harbor of Kiel is closed by ice.

FRANCE AND THE LONDON CONFERENCE.

The Paris press is opposed to the participation of France in the congress of sovereigns on the Eastern question.

THE PRINCE CLAIMS A PICKET.

LILLE, Dec. 27.—Orders have been issued to the authorities of the Prussians which falsely represent the Fort Knuvelles battle as a German victory, and claim to have taken twelve French pieces prisoners. Not a single Frenchman was captured.

GERMAN LOSSES.

The Prussians have lost heavily in battle and by the accidents of the march in the north and northeast of France. The villages are encumbered with German wounded. Great numbers of the German soldiers are suffering from ophthalmia. There are 18,000 sick and wounded Germans at Chalons-sur-Marne.

NEW FRENCH FORTIFICATIONS.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 28.—Advices from Paris state that new fortifications have been completed by the French on the heights of Montmartre. If it should become necessary to evacuate the city, it is the intention to destroy the bridges.

ATTEMPT OF PRISONERS TO ESCAPE.

DIEPPE, Dec. 28.—Two hundred French prisoners confined in the fortress near Rouen concerted a plan to escape from the fortress. Fire, however, frustrated the project was discovered and defeated.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—It is reported that the Crown Prince and Duke of Saxony have been sent to Versailles, to confer with the King of Prussia. The German headquarters are now at Versailles.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says that the Germans have been driven back on their strongholds in the extreme north of Orleans.

THE CITY STARVING FOR FRESH FOOD.

LONDON, Dec.—The latest advices from Paris state that the inhabitants are suffering from fearful privations. Hundreds of horses have been slaughtered to supply the people with food. Provisions are very scarce. The project of making Mont Valerien the base for the defense of the city in the fall of Paris has been abandoned. It is considered impracticable.

CONGRESS, &c.

SITUATION WANTED—AS COLUMBIAN—BY A young man. He is a good office boy. Address A. M. Box 5,870.

SITUATIONS WANTED—FEMALES.

SITUATION WANTED—A YOUNG ENGLISH girl wishes a situation as nurse; can be highly recommended; will not object to go to the country. Address E. M. Box 5,870.

SITUATIONS WANTED—BY TWO AMERICAN ladies, as nurse and housekeeper. Can give the best of references. Address Box 5,870.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A RESPECTABLE young girl as nurse. Apply to Mrs. DENOLAN, 47 Ohio-st.

SITUATION WANTED—AS EXPERIENCED cook in a hotel, restaurant, or private family. Apply at 56 West Washington-st.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A COMPETENT woman as housekeeper, in private family. Inquire at 56 West Washington-st.

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TO RENT—TWO FURNISHED ROOMS FOR GENtlemen only, in private family. No boarders. 56 Sedgwick-st.

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TO RENT—STORES, OFFICES, &C.

TO RENT—STORE NO. 202 WEST MADISON-ST., Chicago, to May 1. Apply over store.

BOARDING AND LODGING.

21 ELDRIDGE-COURT—A SUITE OF WELL-furnished rooms, with board, for gentlemen and their wives; are few boarders. Also, a few single rooms.

49 SOUTH WASHTENAW—BETWEEN MADIson and Monroe-sts.—Rooms, with board, for gentlemen and their wives; also, some rooms unfurnished.

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364 FULTON-ST.—A FURNISHED ROOM WITH board, for a private family. Also a work-bench.

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SITUATIONS WANTED—MALES.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A GOOD PENman and accountant. Can furnish the best of references. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG MARried man as bookkeeper in a wholesale or retail house. Can furnish the best of references. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG MAN of steady habits, as porter in a wholesale or retail house. Can furnish the best of references. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

Bookkeepers, Clerks, &c.

SITUATION WANTED—AS CORRESPONDENT or bookkeeper, in a retail or jobbing house, by a young man who has had a thorough business education, and is capable of filling the position with satisfaction. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG MAN of good habits, as bookkeeper or clerk in a wholesale or retail house. Can furnish the best of references. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A SALESMAN OF [illegible] experience in a furniture store. Address [illegible]

SITUATION WANTED—IN AN OFFICE, BY A young man of business habits. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—A BOOKKEEPER, WHO [illegible] for the care of his office while out of the city. Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A YOUNG MAN, AS [illegible] Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A GENTLEMAN OF [illegible] Address A. B. C., Tribune office.

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Salesmen.

SITUATION WANTED—AS EXPERIENCED [illegible] Apply at 56 West Washington-st.

SITUATION WANTED—BY A COMPETENT salesman, in a wholesale, jobbing, retail or commission house. Address, [illegible] Washington-st.

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WASHINGTON.

A Senate Amnesty Bill to be Presented on the Assembling of Congress.

A Civil Service Reform Bill to be Immediately Brought Forward.

Death of the Wife of Secretary Belknap.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The Senate committee on the removal of political disabilities will be ready to report at the assembling of the next session. It will not provide for universal amnesty, but will be more liberal in its terms than any measure discussed at the last session. There will be an effort on the part of several Senators to take the bill up soon after it is reported, with a view to a full discussion of it. Senators Sherman, of South Carolina, is Chairman of the committee.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The question of civil service reform has received the attention of a number of members of both houses, and the committees will probably report bill on the subject in both branches a few days after recess. Speeches will present the matter to the House, and Schurz will probably have charge of it in the Senate. The object is to have a full debate upon the subject in both houses.

THE EX-RING DOCTOR CONDEMNED.

All the officers ordered in report on board the steamship Tennessee, preparing to take the Condemned to San Domingo, are notified to be without posts by January 5, the day after Congress reassembles.

NO SECRET ON PRIVILEGE.

Secretary Boutwell received the other day from, no matter where, in the West a curious letter. The writer said he was the father of triplets, and solemnly had told him there was a fund set apart, out of which was given a bounty to persons having such a case. He had a wife and two children besides, and as his means were not large, he hoped if there was such a fund that the Secretary would be kind enough to see that he received the benefit of it. To confirm and establish the truth of the story, photographs of the three sons of a sixth were attached to the letter. He was informed that, although some governments had made such provision for the unfortunate, it had thus far escaped the attention of our law-makers.

RETIRED COURT BUSINESS.

The Judges of the Supreme Court do not feel very much encouraged as to the prospect of clearing the docket during the coming of the court. In December, 1869, it was determined to work vigorously and diligently to that end, and there were then on the docket thirteen. The session beginning last December was continued much later than usual, and even then the business was so pressing that working almost impossible, and the strength of the venerable Judges was well-nigh used up. The court will not meet again for business until in November. At the conclusion of the year's business, and the beginning of the regular session in December there will be a number of cases on the docket not precisely 215.

WASTE OF WATER.

The authorities of Washington have been looking around to learn why there is such scarcity of water in the upper part of the city, when the supply of the Potomac is so large. Orders went to furnish a supply. They find that the Potomac water is used to run a water wheel at the Treasury, and another at the Navy Yard, and the total waste by the government is estimated at 2,000,000 gallons.

MONUMENT.

The funeral of Mrs. Belknap occurred this afternoon, and was attended by a large assemblage of her former friends. At the same hour appointed for the funeral, the wife of the Secretary Rawlins breathed her last, and another intimate ornament of Washington society passed away. Mrs. Rawlins had no children, and for whom the Secretary became acquainted during the war.

(To the Associated Press.)

THE ARMY RETIRING BOARD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The Army Retiring Board, now in session at the War Department, will probably complete the work before the limits of the law. The board will try that time to retire all the officers except three or four, the evidence in regard to whom is not in. The recommendations of the board's session of several months will be forwarded to the Secretary of War in a few days. The board will then go out of existence. Gen. Sherman will be relieved from the duties of President of the board, and will return to his command. The board has been constituted in the United States Circuit Court, in New York, and will probably remain there. Business transactions amounting aggregate to be done in that city will be the principal cause of the board's retaining its present location.

A Philadelphia dispatch of thirtieth says the Assistant State Centre Committee reports to-day that the Democratic majority in this city will be 12,000. The Democratic majority in the State will be 30,000. The Democratic majority in the Legislature will be 40. The Democratic majority in the Senate will be 5. The Democratic majority in the House will be 35.

The Democratic majority in Congress from this district, in spelling the holidays in this city. There is no indication that he will accept the invitation. Colonel Forney will be present, and Governor Hoffman, of the State, but the Raleigh deputation will not go. Governor Holden would dare defend Governor Holden.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

A sub-committee of the Committee on Appropriations is now engaged in the preliminaries of a bill increasing the salary of the Chief Justice of the United States and supplies.

Professors Hall, Bacheler and Harkness, of the Naval Observatory, who went to Europe for the purpose of observing the late solar eclipse, report that they have returned to Washington, and that the results of the observations were unsatisfactory.

MRS. LINCOLN'S PENSION.

The certificate for the pension of Mrs. Lincoln has been completed and forwarded to Chicago.

THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE DEFICIT.

The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads has completed the investigation of the charges against Postmaster Marshall, of New York, and will report unfavorably on the appointment of Marshall to the New York Post Office, and the retention of the present incumbent. It will also express commendation of the manner in which Postmaster Marshall has conducted the office, and will recommend his confirmation up to the time of the suspension of the work.

ILLINOIS.

The Annual Session of the State Teachers' Association at Decatur.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

DECATUR, Ill., Dec. 29.—The session of the State Teachers' Association, just closed here, was a most successful one. Fully 400 delegates and teachers were present at all any former session, and a number of very able school-book agents and lecturers on were present. The next session of Invocation was taken up in business, and the evening of the first day was devoted to the reception of any accession of the schools. Able arguments were made by Professors Richard, of Galesburg; Weightman, of Bloomington; Superintendent Pickard, of Chicago; Superintendent Wells, of Peoria, and Miss Fraisie, of Springfield, this afternoon in relation to the Centralization of the system of free education in the organization of county, State and national.

The teachers leave for home on the evening train. They are well pleased with their meeting, and will go to their labors, next week, refreshed.

The Weather at Springfield—Affairs of the Chicago Seminary of the Sacred Heart—Personal—Senatorial Matters.

SPRINGFIELD Dec. 29.—The weather yesterday was mild, and toward evening a snow storm commenced, which continued during the night, and this morning the mercury marked six degrees below zero. The sleighing will keep in order.

The annual statement of the affairs of the Seminary of the Sacred Heart, at Chicago, has been made in compliance with the provisions of its charter, and filed with the Secretary of State to-day. From it I gather the following statistics: The amount of assets consists of $1,000 in bonds of officials against the same, and $2,000 in bonds of the Archbishop of Chicago, and $1,000 in bonds of the Parochial Free School, 4th.

Mr. Ingersoll, the Representative in Congress from this district, is spending the holidays in this city. There is no indication that he will accept the invitation. Colonel Forney will be present, and Governor Hoffman, of the State, but the Raleigh deputation will not go. Governor Holden would dare defend Governor Holden.

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The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads has completed the investigation of the charges against Postmaster Marshall, of New York, and will report unfavorably on the appointment of Marshall to the New York Post Office, and the retention of the present incumbent. It will also express commendation of the manner in which Postmaster Marshall has conducted the office, and will recommend his confirmation up to the time of the suspension of the work.

ILLINOIS.

The Annual Session of the State Teachers' Association at Decatur.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

DECATUR, Ill., Dec. 29.—The session of the State Teachers' Association, just closed here, was a most successful one. Fully 400 delegates and teachers were present at all any former session, and a number of very able school-book agents and lecturers on were present. The next session of Invocation was taken up in business, and the evening of the first day was devoted to the reception of any accession of the schools. Able arguments were made by Professors Richard, of Galesburg; Weightman, of Bloomington; Superintendent Pickard, of Chicago; Superintendent Wells, of Peoria; Miss Fraisie, of Springfield, this afternoon in relation to the Centralization of the system of free education in the organization of county, State and national.

The teachers leave for home on the evening train. They are well pleased with their meeting, and will go to their labors, next week, refreshed.

The Weather at Springfield—Affairs of the Chicago Seminary of the Sacred Heart—Personal—Senatorial Matters.

SPRINGFIELD Dec. 29.—The weather yesterday was mild, and toward evening a snow storm commenced, which continued during the night, and this morning the mercury marked six degrees below zero. The sleighing will keep in order.

The annual statement of the affairs of the Seminary of the Sacred Heart, at Chicago, has been made in compliance with the provisions of its charter, and filed with the Secretary of State to-day. From it I gather the following statistics: The amount of assets consists of $1,000 in bonds of officials against the same, and $2,000 in bonds of the Archbishop of Chicago, and $1,000 in bonds of the Parochial Free School, 4th.

Mr. Ingersoll, the Representative in Congress from this district, is spending the holidays in this city. There is no indication that he will accept the invitation. Colonel Forney will be present, and Governor Hoffman, of the State, but the Raleigh deputation will not go. Governor Holden would dare defend Governor Holden.

THE CHIEF PRACTOR.

A sub-committee of the Committee on Appropriations is now engaged in the preliminaries of a bill increasing the salary of the Chief Justice of the United States and supplies.

Professors Hall, Bacheler and Harkness, of the Naval Observatory, who went to Europe for the purpose of observing the late solar eclipse, report that they have returned to Washington, and that the results of the observations were unsatisfactory.

MRS. LINCOLN'S PENSION.

The certificate for the pension of Mrs. Lincoln has been completed and forwarded to Chicago.

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INDIANA.

The Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette Railroad—Report of the Receivers.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—General Morris and Wm. L. Ross, Receivers of the Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette Railroad, have filed their report to the court, last evening, in Indianapolis. It is a long document, and will be published in full to-morrow. The following are the principal items: The gross earnings of the road for the year ending Nov. 30, 1870, were $1,200,000. The expenses of operating the road, including taxes, were $1,000,000. The net earnings were $200,000. The interest on the bonded debt is $1,000,000. The receivers state that the Legislature should appropriate not less than $500,000 for the purpose of repairing the road, and that immediate, was stopped. A memorial, setting forth the claims of the Institute to recognition, was presented to Congress and signed by the officers of the Institute.

WISCONSIN.

State Convention of School Teachers at Madison—Other Educational Matters—Frozen to Death.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

MADISON, Dec. 29.—The evening, while General Prim was proceeding from the Cortes to the residence of Marshal Serrano, in a coach, he was fired upon by assassins, wounding both the General and his aide-de-camp. The assassins escaped in the confusion. The General and his aide-de-camp are not dangerously wounded. The perpetrators of the outrage were not captured.

AUSTRIA.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Vienna Government has sent a formal complaint to the Cabinet at Vienna, concerning the enlargement of the rolling stock of Austrian railroads for the Servian military transport service. The cause of the appointment by the Austrian Government of a Minister to Japan is the truth of the charges preferred by France.

PRUSSIA.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—A London despatch says that Count Bismarck has addressed a circular to the Prussian Government at Berlin.

The Prussians have occupied the left bank of Lauterbourg.

There is still a large force at Vostal.

The Prussians have occupied Nancy on Wednesday, occupied the line between Dieuleire and St. Nicholas. Our business men are in consternation. The forces reached the town of Bathon, where an engagement with the French defenders of Havre occurred.

THURSDAY, Dec. 29.—The Prussians on Monday occupied Nancy, and on Tuesday, Bayonne, in the southeast from Arles.

JAPAN.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—The Japanese Embassy arrived here this morning, and left shortly afterward for Washington.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 29.—The entire population of the Eastern Department is under arms. There is no emergency of the situation, and meet the troops in the field. Gambetta was in the city last night. The government is taking measures for the distribution of arms among the people everywhere.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* says that the Prussian authorities, in consequence of the refusal of the Parisian journals to publish German journals with the German armies, have established a paper at Versailles, which is to be sent from there to the lines of occupation.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Paris correspondence that the Prussians hastily evacuated Dijon at the approach of Garibaldi's army. This is at the close of the campaign in the East by order of the Prussian Government, and was to be executed by the officers of Garibaldi's army.

Communication between Chattanooga and Calais is now interrupted by the Germans.

ROUMANIA.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Roumanian Government has issued a decree declaring the absolute independence of the Danubian Principalities from the Ottoman Empire, and their entire political sovereignty.

GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The order of accusation against Sir Robert Peel, Governor General of Canada, was communicated to the Queen's bingham, has been withdrawn.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The British Government, upon the application of Count Bernstorff, stopped the publication of the letter of Count Bismarck to the submarine cable to connect Denmark, Germany, Russia and Scotland. The duty was given in charge to the Custom House officers on board the steamer Hull Packet, which left for Hamburg. These boats after the first notice of the seizure. Three hours after the first notice of the seizure, a telegram was received from Berlin for the release of the ship, which was refused.

SPAIN.

MADRID, Dec. 29.—Last night, as General Prim was leaving the Cortes, eight shots were fired at his carriage by assassins. Prim was severely wounded in three places; in the left arm and on the right knee and thigh. His wounds are very serious.

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NEW YORK, Dec.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th, 1870.

THE RAILROAD QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATURE.

Various bills are preparing, and will be presented at the approaching session of the Legislature, with a view to regulating the rates of freight and fare on railroads in the State of Illinois. One of these, we are informed, will propose to enact that no road in the State shall charge more than three cents per mile for passengers, and that the railway company for the transportation of freight shall be disqualified ten per cent. The promoters of this and passage of such a bill will be mostly for the purpose of bringing before the people, and, finally, the Supreme Court of the United States, the question whether the Legislature of this State has any constitutional power to regulate freights and fares. It is claimed, by the promoters of such a bill, that whatever may have been the powers of the Legislature, under the old constitution, the new one clothes it with the power by the following clause:

"Railroads are declared to be public highways, and railroad companies are common carriers. The General Assembly shall pass laws to correct abuses and prevent unjust discrimination and extortion in freight and passage tolls on railroads, and shall have the power to establish reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on railroads in this State."

The issue in question, whether a State Constitutional Convention can impart to the Legislature a power to prescribe the rates of freight and fare which railroad companies shall charge, is a grand one. It cannot longer remain a power if the exercise of the power is in conflict with the constitution of the United States. It would conflict with the constitution of the United States, if it impairs the obligation of a contract or confers vested rights acquired under former legislation, without adequate compensation.

The ground on which Governor Palmer vetoed the Joint Railway and Freight bill, was, essentially, that the charter of a railway company gives it the vested right to carry passengers and freight for stated amounts, and to demand a reasonable compensation; and that this charter is a contract between the people of the State on one side, and the railroad company on the other; that, as a contract, it cannot be impaired by any legislation whatever; that either party to it has a right to ask the judge of the issues of its duties under it, or, in other words, of what constitutes reasonable rates of freights and fares; and that the determination of this question is a judicial one, and belongs to courts and juries, and not to the Legislature.

We are not sure that the last point may not have been removed, by Article 12 of the present constitution. Though it seems manifest that the latter clause impairs the obligations of contracts, it may clothe a State Legislature with judicial powers. Admitting this power to determine what are reasonable rates of freight and fare to be established, will propose to enact that no road in the State shall charge more than three cents per mile for passengers, and that the railway company for the transportation of freight shall be disqualified ten per cent. The promoters of such a bill will be mostly for the purpose of bringing before the people, and, finally, the Supreme Court of the United States, the question whether the Legislature of this State has any constitutional power to regulate freights and fares. It is claimed, by the promoters of such a bill, that whatever may have been the powers of the Legislature, under the old constitution, the new one clothes it with the power by the following clause:

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THE COMMON COUNCIL.

Enquiry Concerning Artesian Wells.

The New Water Works Lot Again

Revision of the Rules—Harrison Street Bridge—Sidewalks.

A special meeting of the Common Council was held last evening, Mayor Medill in the chair, and Aldermen Wentworth, Cleaver, Cullerton, Wallace, Kaiser, Kinsella, Kogel, Kreuzer, Kuickebocker, Dixon, Van Schaack, Cregier, Kreiss, Kipley, Thompson, Van Buskirk, Throop, Schmitz, Bateman, Hutter, W. S. Forest, Bailey, Sainbert, Wilce, Walsh, Glose, McCotter, Winnick, Champion, Schmidt, Schiffler, Carney, McCauley, Clarke, Devine, and Hallett.

REVISION OF THE RULES.

The report of the committee on revision on the subject of the rules of order, and on the motion for its adoption, the yeas were 18, and the nays 17.

The chair declined the motion to be put in motion of the report having separated a two-thirds vote of the entire Council.

Ald. Medill appealed from the decision of the Chair, and considerable discussion ensued. A motion to lay the appeal on the Chair was not sustained.

The Chair said it was a common decision.

Ald. Medill said that was an insult.

The Council by calling the decision "common."

Ald. Sainsbury said the Chair was impertinent in his remarks to the author of the Council.

The Chair wished to explain.

Ald. Cregier (in a state of excitement) explained, and called upon the Clerk to read from the Order of Business.

The Chair refused to put in a word edgeways, in the effort that was made by the leaders of the Opposition

CHICAGO IN 1870.

Trade and Commerce of the City During the Past Year.

The Movement in Breadstuffs, Live Stock, Provisions, and Other Articles.

Our Wholesale Business--Groceries, Dry Goods, Drugs, Boots and Shoes, &c.

Receipts and Shipments of Produce and Merchandise--Value of Receipts, $400,000,000.

Rates by Wholesale Dealers Amount to $202,500,000.

Statistics of Manufactures--Aggregate, $88,000,000.

&c., &c., &c.

The year now closing has been one of great trial to all persons engaged in business operations in this city. Now, during the progress of the war, the shock occasioned by that great struggle having passed entirely subsiding, and prices resting down-ward to their ordinary ante-war basis; thus constantly lessening the nominal value of property carried by traders, when estimated by currency, the cost of changing coins, and many causes of goods actually declining on a gold basis, because of greater productive proportion to the supply. While all this, during the year has pressed with greater harder to bear, because it has been a test added to that which has gone before it. We have come through to nearly the end of the decline. Another year at most will see the balance restored, and full business activity resume on a fair and healthy basis.

But this testimony has not told so heavily in favor of progress as in many other cities, particularly those of the East. There is a constant increase of talent and energy, of capital and of natural facilities, which is bearing with the steady rapid growth of the country itself to, which has been a preparation for the tremendous demands of the future. Hence our real estate interests have not suffered in proportion with those of New York and the Eastern cities generally; we have not passed through any such period of contracting lines, and our employment have been quite as large during the past year as ever before. The profits in a commercial point of view, have been small, and the greater portion of business transactions. Hence the year has, almost, passed as have yielded to the financial pressure which has broken down so many of the strongest houses in the country, and has very few, indeed, among us have yielded to the temptation of resorting to fictitious paper to meet their ordinary obligations. Hence the year is closing, as it opened,